

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): An apparatus which may be used as a combustion system, said apparatus comprising:

- a) an oxyfuel burner;
- b) ~~a means for feeding~~ a first duct adapted to feed said burner with fuel;
- c) ~~a means for feeding~~ a second duct adapted to feed said burner with an oxidizer comprising oxygen and an additional gas;
- d) an oxygen ~~feed means~~ feeder;
- e) an additional gas ~~feed means~~ feeder, wherein said ~~oxidizer feed means~~ second duct cooperates with said oxygen ~~feed means~~ feeder and said additional gas ~~feed means~~ feeder;
- f) ~~a means for measuring~~ a flow rate measurement device, wherein said flow rate comprises at least one member selected ~~from~~ from the group consisting of:
 - 1) said oxygen's flow rate; and
 - 2) said fuel's flow rate; and
- g) ~~a means for controlling~~ flow rate control device adapted to control said additional gas's flow rate, wherein said flow rate control device is slaved to said flow rate measurement device so that a sum of the additional gas, oxygen and fuel flow rates are greater than a preset minimum flow rate D_{MIN} .

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said ~~means for controlling said additional gas's flow rate is~~ flow rate control device comprises a pressure regulator.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said ~~means for controlling said additional gas's flow rate~~ flow rate control device is a servovalve.

Claims 32-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said flow rate control device allows the feeding of the additional gas until a pressure generated by the additional gas and the oxygen fed to the burner is sufficient to achieve a flow rate of oxidizer greater than D_{MIN} , the flow rate of the oxidizer being a sum of the flow rates of the oxygen and the additional gas.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the servovalve controls the feeding of the additional gas by slaving an opening of the additional gas feeder to a control value selected from the group consisting of a flow rate of the oxygen and a flow rate of the fuel, the slaving of the opening to the control value taking into account a fixed oxygen/fuel stoichiometric ratio.

Claim 36 (new): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the additional gas is air and the slaving of the opening to the control valve takes into account a supply of oxygen from the air in calculating the oxygen/fuel stoichiometric ratio.

Claim 37 (new): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein:
said first duct is coaxially located substantially inside of said second duct; and
said first duct's end portion is located back from said second duct's end portion.

Claim 38 (new): The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said flow rate measurement device measures the flow rates of each of the oxygen and the fuel and said flow rate control device adjusts the flow rate of the additional gas so that the sum of the oxygen, additional gas and fuel flow rates is greater than D_{MIN} .